



**For Release: Tuesday, January 30, 2018**

**18-140-SAN**

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## **County Employment and Wages in Arizona – Second Quarter 2017**

Employment increased in both of Arizona's large counties from June 2016 to June 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2016 annual average employment.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that employment rose 3.3 percent in Maricopa County and 1.8 percent in Pima County. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, employment advanced 1.7 percent from June 2016 to June 2017 as 318 of the 346 largest U.S. counties registered increases. Midland, Texas, had the largest employment gain in the country, up 7.3 percent. Lucas, Ohio, had the largest over-the-year decrease among these counties with a loss of 1.9 percent.

Among the two large counties in Arizona, employment was higher in Maricopa (1,891,700) in June 2017. Pima County had an employment level of 359,500. Together, Arizona's two large counties accounted for 83.4 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 346 largest counties made up 72.7 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Pima County was \$861 in the second quarter of 2017, an increase of 4.2 percent from the second quarter of 2016. (See [table 1.](#)) Average weekly wages in Maricopa County were \$986, a gain of 1.6 percent over the year. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 3.2 percent from a year ago to \$1,020 in the second quarter of 2017.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 13 counties in Arizona with employment below 75,000. Twelve of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average in the second quarter of 2017. (See [table 2.](#))

### **Large county wage changes**

Pima County's 4.2-percent rise in average weekly wages from the second quarter of 2016 to the second quarter of 2017 ranked 75<sup>th</sup> among the nation's 346 largest counties. Maricopa County's 1.6-percent wage gain ranked 261<sup>st</sup>. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, 325 of the 346 largest counties had over-the-year wage increases. New Hanover, N.C., had the largest wage gain in the nation (11.9 percent). San Mateo, Calif., and Midland, Texas were second with wage increases of 11.4 percent each. Rounding out the top five were Kitsap, Wash. (11.0 percent) and Clackamas, Ore. (10.0 percent).

Of the 346 largest U.S. counties, 19 had over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. McLean, Ill., had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-20.4 percent), followed by Union, N.J. (-3.7 percent); Warren, Ohio (-3.6 percent); Somerset, N.J. (-3.4 percent); Fairfield, Conn. (-1.9 percent); and Washington, Ore. (-1.9 percent).

### **Large county average weekly wages**

Maricopa County's \$986 average weekly wage ranked 130<sup>th</sup> among the 346 large U.S. counties. The average weekly wage in Pima County, at \$861, ranked 247<sup>th</sup>. (See [table 1](#).)

Among the largest U.S. counties, 249 had average weekly wages below the national average (\$1,020) in the second quarter of 2017. The lowest weekly wage was in Cameron, Texas (\$615), followed by Horry, S.C. (\$622), and the Texas counties of Hidalgo (\$632) and Webb (\$667).

Average weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average in 97 of the 346 large U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$2,392. San Mateo, Calif., was second with an average weekly wage of \$2,093, followed by San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,941) and New York, N.Y. (\$1,907).

### **Average weekly wages in Arizona's smaller counties**

Among the 13 smaller counties in Arizona with employment below 75,000, 12 reported average weekly wages below the national average of \$1,020. The exception was Greenlee County with an average weekly wage of \$1,268. Among the remaining smaller counties, Cochise (\$847) had the highest weekly wages, while La Paz had the lowest (\$681). (See [table 2](#).)

When all 15 counties in Arizona were considered, 1 had average wages under \$700 per week, 8 had wages from \$700 to \$799, 4 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 2 had wages above \$900. (See [chart 1](#).)

### **Additional statistics and other information**

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in table 3. For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note or visit [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew).

*Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2016 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2017 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are now available at [www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn16.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn16.htm).

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**The County Employment and Wages release for third quarter 2017 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, March 8, 2018.**

### **Technical Note**

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 9.9 million employer reports cover 145.2 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average

of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at [www.bls.gov/cew/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/); however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised (see Technical Note below) and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the two largest counties in Arizona, second quarter 2017**

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2016-17 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, second quarter 2016-17 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	145,186.4	1.7	--	\$1,020	--	3.2	--
Arizona .....	2,699.6	2.9	--	943	23	2.5	35
Maricopa, Ariz.....	1,891.7	3.3	29	986	130	1.6	261
Pima, Ariz. ....	359.5	1.8	146	861	247	4.2	75

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Arizona, second quarter 2017**

Area	Employment June 2017	Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	145,186,369	\$1,020
Arizona .....	2,699,634	943
Apache .....	17,440	831
Cochise .....	34,111	847
Coconino .....	62,665	784
Gila .....	15,028	765
Graham .....	8,610	787
Greenlee.....	4,609	1,268
La Paz .....	5,656	681
Maricopa.....	1,891,657	986
Mohave.....	48,727	715
Navajo .....	27,803	728
Pima .....	359,480	861
Pinal .....	59,773	794
Santa Cruz .....	13,387	839
Yavapai.....	63,195	732
Yuma .....	58,051	755

**Footnotes**

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

NOTE: Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2017**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2016-17	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2016-17	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	145,186.4	1.7	\$1,020	--	3.2	--
Alabama .....	1,946.4	1.2	858	38	2.8	31
Alaska .....	338.4	-0.7	1,005	16	-0.5	51
Arizona .....	2,699.6	2.9	943	23	2.5	35
Arkansas .....	1,206.0	0.7	810	47	3.2	22
California .....	17,150.9	2.2	1,210	5	4.7	3
Colorado .....	2,638.8	2.5	1,042	11	4.2	5
Connecticut .....	1,701.2	0.6	1,216	4	0.4	50
Delaware .....	446.6	0.6	1,012	15	2.2	43
District of Columbia .....	766.5	1.0	1,675	1	3.3	19
Florida .....	8,390.6	2.8	905	27	2.5	35
Georgia.....	4,357.8	2.1	956	21	2.9	27
Hawaii.....	653.0	1.0	935	24	3.5	13
Idaho .....	723.5	3.4	765	50	3.4	16
Illinois .....	6,006.6	0.9	1,062	9	2.4	39
Indiana.....	3,041.0	1.5	859	37	3.7	9
Iowa.....	1,571.4	0.4	853	39	3.3	19
Kansas .....	1,377.8	-0.1	849	40	2.4	39
Kentucky.....	1,889.4	0.8	862	35	2.9	27
Louisiana .....	1,907.7	0.0	869	34	2.0	46
Maine.....	629.1	0.9	814	46	2.5	35
Maryland.....	2,694.8	1.4	1,103	8	3.1	23
Massachusetts .....	3,604.5	1.6	1,278	2	3.6	11
Michigan .....	4,365.3	1.6	969	19	2.9	27
Minnesota.....	2,902.1	2.0	1,037	12	3.9	6
Mississippi .....	1,128.9	0.7	732	51	0.8	49
Missouri .....	2,818.7	1.2	889	30	3.0	25
Montana .....	473.6	1.3	797	48	3.9	6
Nebraska .....	984.0	0.4	833	43	3.5	13
Nevada .....	1,333.5	3.4	900	29	2.9	27
New Hampshire.....	665.4	1.6	1,015	14	1.2	48
New Jersey.....	4,123.5	1.8	1,173	6	2.3	41
New Mexico .....	815.4	0.7	823	45	1.5	47
New York .....	9,417.4	1.6	1,237	3	2.2	43
North Carolina .....	4,361.4	1.8	902	28	4.3	4
North Dakota .....	422.7	-0.2	953	22	5.0	2
Ohio.....	5,422.8	1.2	912	25	3.3	19
Oklahoma .....	1,583.8	0.8	845	41	2.5	35
Oregon .....	1,912.6	2.2	967	20	3.8	8
Pennsylvania .....	5,859.4	1.3	1,000	17	3.0	25
Rhode Island .....	487.3	1.0	980	18	2.6	33
South Carolina.....	2,053.9	2.0	834	42	3.6	11
South Dakota.....	435.5	0.6	785	49	3.4	16
Tennessee .....	2,948.1	1.8	906	26	3.5	13
Texas .....	12,059.6	2.1	1,027	13	2.7	32
Utah.....	1,440.3	3.4	862	35	2.6	33
Vermont.....	314.2	1.0	870	33	2.1	45
Virginia.....	3,886.6	1.5	1,047	10	3.7	9
Washington.....	3,352.5	2.2	1,141	7	5.6	1
West Virginia .....	690.9	-0.3	828	44	3.4	16
Wisconsin .....	2,905.3	1.1	876	31	2.3	41
Wyoming .....	280.2	-0.7	875	32	3.1	23
Puerto Rico.....	873.6	-1.0	515	(3)	1.2	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2017 - Continued**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2016-17	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2016-17	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands .....	38.6	0.4	762	(3)	2.6	(3)

## Footnotes:

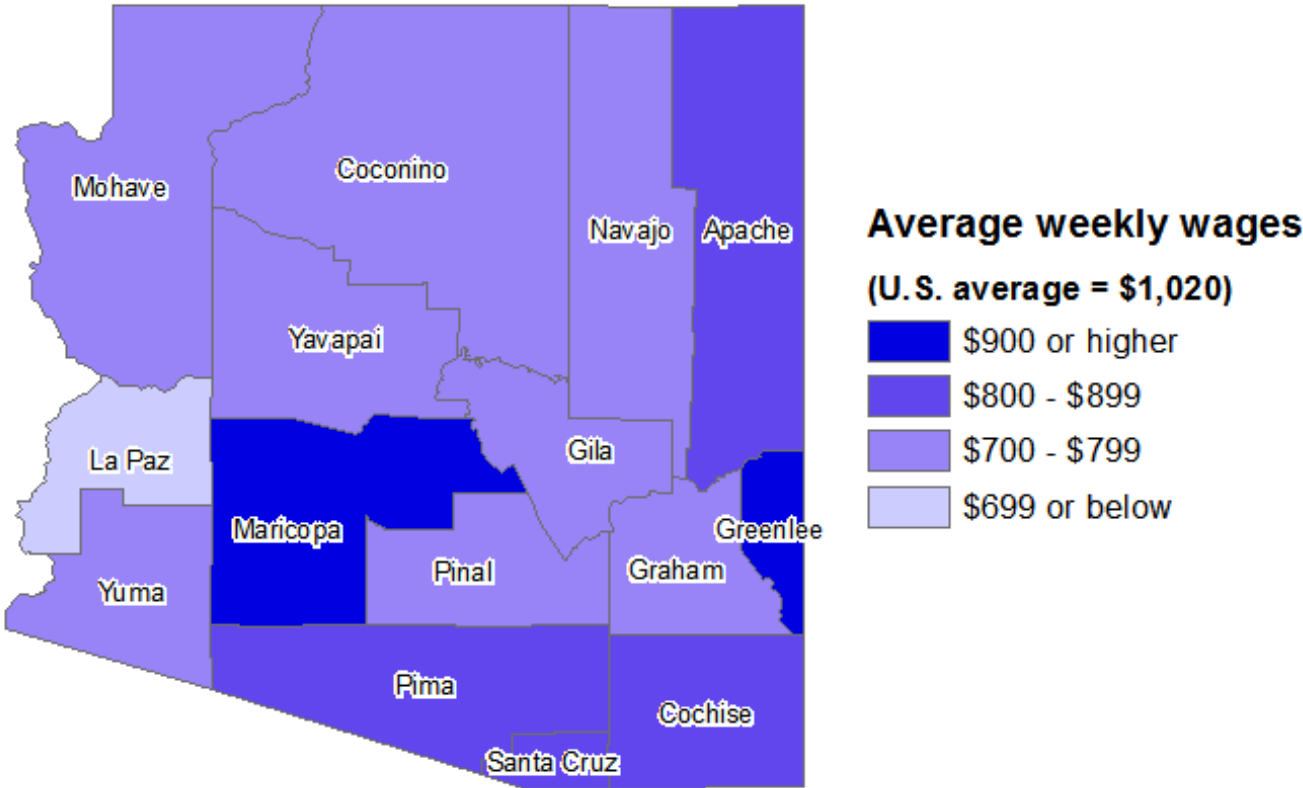
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Arizona, second quarter 2017**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.